

## REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. Independent claim 17 has been amended. Basis for the amendments to claim 17 can be found in claims 1 and 4 as originally filed, and on page 3, lines 7-9 of the present application. No new matter has been added. The preferable limitations of claims 22, 24, 26 and 28 have been placed in new claims 37-40, respectively, and claims 22, 24, 26 and 28 have been amended accordingly.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 and 103**

Claims 17-36 are rejected as being anticipated by Ferrar et al. (US 5,578,370).

Ferrar et al. describes a method of producing a thermoplastic composite material, wherein mutually elongated thermoplastic elements are used to form a mat. A plurality of mats can be superimposed on each other and fused together to form a layered structure, see claim 28. In other words, the elements are incorporated into a material that is subsequently formed into a shaped article. This is in contrast to the present invention which allows the application at the surface of an article that already has been shaped before application of the tape, film or yarn, or the tape, film or yarn has been shaped simultaneously with or before forming the article, hence the term "reinforcing".

Since Ferrar et al. does not disclose a method according to the present invention, it follows that the present method claims are new and non-obvious and define over the cited prior art.

It is further noted that because, according to the present invention, the article is shaped before the tape, film or yarn is attached, or the tape, film or yarn has been shaped simultaneously with or before forming the article, the resulting reinforced article is different from articles of the prior art. Therefore, the article of the present invention is also new and non-obvious over the cited prior art.

The present invention is also non-obvious for the following reasons. Ferrar et al. does not suggest that attaching the tape, film or yarn of thermoplastic polymer to the surface of an article may provide for the reinforcing effect that is the subject of the present invention and which is evidenced in the present application.

In addition, the present invention provides for further advantages, such as the possibility to use a material that comprises a central layer and an outer layer, wherein these layers are of the same class of material. This facilitates recycling of the material. This is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

In view of the amendments and the remarks, it is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. VOB-38027.

Respectfully submitted,

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